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WISHART'S "MONKS AND MONASTERIES" has been republished in cheaper form.²⁵ The author's fitness for his task may be judged from his bibliography, where he quotes among the authorities "likely to prove of direct value to students" Lord's "Beacon Lights of History," Scott's "Monastery," Kingsley's "Hypatia" and Reade's "Cloister and Hearth." The book, naturally, is a mixture of good, bad and indifferent, according to the "authorities" followed in each section. The author's style may be illustrated by a quotation (p. 203): "He [the monk] has met the shock of lances on his prancing steed, and trudged barefoot from town to town. . . . He has held the plow in the furrow, and thwarted the devices of kings." The book is evidently an outcome of the Extension lectures which Mr. Wishart gave under the auspices of the University of Chicago."

REVIEWS.

The Social Unrest. By JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS. Pp. 394. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1903.

For many years the author of "The Social Unrest," Mr. John Graham Brooks, has been a close student of the social movements in America and Europe. During these years he has come into contact with large numbers of employers and laborers and has secured a mass of first-hand testimony, much of which is effectively presented in the present volume. In this, Mr. Brooks attempts to do for a larger circle what he has so successfully accomplished in his lectures to press home the fact that there is a social problem, and to emphasize the responsibility of the public for the proper solution of the difficulties.

The book is scarcely to be considered a carefully planned thesis, logically developed. In fact it is difficult to trace the thread of the argument. It is a product not of the study, but shaped in the *Sturm und Drang* of economic activity. One seems to see as in a vast kaleidoscope the social elements in motion, forming new and wonderful combinations with bewildering rapidity, element warring against element for dominant position in the picture.

The centre of the trouble is found in the relations of labor organizations to trusts and the tendency to seek economic ends by political means. In this the capitalists, supposedly opposed to paternalism, have led the way. The struggles have quickened the pace of socialism. The danger is in the possibility of class conflict. "There is no danger in socialism that for a moment compares with that part of its working propaganda, dear to extremists—the class struggle. To make men believe in the fatalities of this social warfare is the deadliest work in which any human being can engage." That this feeling of class is not the result of disordered imagination among laborers is recognized. "This stunting use of the child in industry is but a part of what

²⁵ "A Short History of Monks and Monasteries." By Alfred Wesley Wishart, sometime Fellow in Church History in the University of Chicago. Pp. 462. Price, \$1.50 net. Trenton: Brandt. 1902.

²⁶ Contributed by D. C. Munro, University of Wisconsin.

is perhaps the most threatening fact of the new century, the wider and more relentless use of every known agency to keep wages (and therefore the standard of life) as low as possible," an unconscious purpose largely, the author believes. This policy must yield—Mr. Brooks gladly says wise employers are yielding—to a more just and sympathetic attitude.

Political liberalism has failed in Europe and capitalism is being put to the test here. To forecast the future, the development of political socialism in Germany and Belgium is traced in the chapter on Socialism at Work. This is a most interesting account of the positive achievements, particularly in Belgium, and the sobering effects are evident. In Belgium the development of co-operation among socialists is "bringing confusion into the ranks of the small traders." "Steadied by these heavy yet delicate responsibilities, the socialist politics has been so chastened by its fifteen years' experience that one of the strongest men of the party told me: 'We have learned that to run the affairs of a town or of a government is immensely more difficult than any of us supposed. If we had the chance to assume government responsibility we should refuse it, because we are not ready for it.'" In Germany the party is becoming more sober and practical in spite of the *Mittelstands-politik* of the government. "The contrast between the sobriety of the Belgian socialism that has had fifteen years' business experience and the socialism in the neighboring French towns is full of lessons."

This European development gives us the key to the policy we should pursue. Socialism has so progressed that it is now possible for "society to co-operate with it safely." This co-operation involves an education. "From an educational point of view, what is the most unanswerable charge that can be brought against our current industrial system? It is that, as a large part of this system now works, it creates suspicion, aversion, or stolid indifference which may be worse." "There can be no 'remedy' deserving the name that does not recognize the necessity of so modifying the relations of employer and employed, that the daily work shall instruct both parties in those things that bind together, rather than antagonize."

The danger now is that business corporations will seek by all means to defeat the real aims of organized labor and "thus drive the workmen into a turbulent political socialism bent upon using every weapon of taxation against the well-to-do." A coal operator is quoted as saying, "It is my deliberate opinion that we must continue to fight the unions with all the strength we possess, it will be safer than any hopeless attempt to educate them into common sense." Mr. Brooks argues conclusively against this attitude. On the statement of another operator that, "It gives me the chills sometimes to hear my men talk as if they, too, were actually in the business," the author comments: "The process may add fever to the chills, but it is the way through which the unwilling parties have to pass." Much space is devoted to the anthracite coal strike and Mr. Brooks would probably agree that the coal commission has done more to commit the American people to many of the tenets of the socialists than any other event in our history.

That much criticism may be passed upon organized labor is admitted.

Mr. Brooks makes six charges. "The sin and the weakness of the trade-unions have been: (1) in its attitude toward the non-union man; (2) in its sullen aversion to new inventions; (3) in its too willing assent to check the output of work; (4) in its tendency to discourage the best endeavor among the better and stronger workers; (5) in its too free use of the sympathetic strike; (6) in a far too reckless use of the boycott." The author says the tendency is towards more conservative methods.

What is needed is an open-minded co-operation under orderly methods. We have a chance to be wiser in our dealings with the coming socialism than we have been with trades-unions. The final question is: "Are we as a people willing to put in practice those methods which increase this educational co-operation?" "There are splendid hopes for a well-ordered industrial society, if we are brave enough and generous enough to recognize these possibilities of agreement and to use them educationally." Society, the public at large, employer, laborer, have nothing to fear from "socialist criticism, when it also has learned to take the social point of view, we stand not in sharply divided and hostile camps, but on a common ground where men of good will can work together."

The extreme individualist will take little pleasure in reading this book, but all who are interested in social well-being will get enlightening glimpses of the complexity as well as of the hopefulness of the problems discussed.

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Philadelphia.

The True History of the American Revolution. By SIDNEY GEORGE FISHER. Pp. 437, with twenty-four illustrations and maps. Price, \$2.00. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1902.

The title of Sidney George Fisher's latest work, "The True History of the American Revolution," at once challenges the reader's attention and naturally gives rise to the query, in what respect is this account more true than those which have preceded it. The author tells us in his preface that other historians have omitted "from their narrative a great deal which" to him "seems essential to a true picture." He arraigns them for concealing the truth in several particulars, and for glossing over everything that would tend to discredit the patriot party and its cause. While these charges are to a considerable extent true of the earlier historians of the Revolution, they are certainly too sweeping in their condemnation of the later writers. Mr. Fisher apparently has overlooked the special studies of various phases of the revolutionary period which have appeared within recent years, and he has not given recognition to the contributions made by the more general works of both English and American scholars during the same time. It may be said that, from the writer's own point of view, certain of these monographs treat more adequately and successfully than Mr. Fisher some of the very subjects that he charges have been omitted or falsified. Moreover, some of the general histories above referred to, give, we believe, a more trustworthy and certainly a better balanced account of the contest than the work under consideration.